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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency on its third session

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
from 2 to 11 May 1994

UNITED NATIONS

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Geneva

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency held its third session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 2 to 11 May 1994. In the course of the session, the Ad Hoc Working Group held 7 formal and 10 informal meetings.

Opening statements

2. The **Chairperson** said that, although the Marrakesh meeting marking the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in April 1994 had stressed the international community's willingness to introduce a macroeconomic framework for an open global trading system, the microeconomic issues of international trade had still to be addressed. This had been the work of the Trade Efficiency Programme since its launching in Cartagena by UNCTAD VIII.

3. The United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, to be held in the United States, at Columbus, Ohio, in October 1994, would give the international community the opportunity to take actions which would allow all nations to participate fully in international trade. In all countries, scores of potential traders, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, were denied access to international trade because of the lack of efficient trade procedures, lack of information and information networks and inadequate support services or trade logistics. The Symposium would represent an historic opportunity to change the modalities of world trade and thus actually affect people's lives.

4. An important component of the Trade Efficiency Programme was the linkage of trade points in a global electronic network. At the time of the meeting, nearly 50 trade points had been initiated. The programme brought immediate benefits to participants and had the potential to boost world trade.

5. The work of the Ad Hoc Working Group was unique in that it linked policy issues and technical assistance within UNCTAD. There had been commendable cooperation with private and public sector experts, as well as with a number of organizations such as CCC, ECE (WP.4) and ITC, which had resulted in a new form of synergy.

6. The **Deputy to the Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD** said that one of the main objectives of the session was to finalize the recommendations to be considered at the United Nations International Symposium. These recommendations covered the six major areas of interest to trade efficiency, namely Customs, trade facilitation/business practices, business information, banking and insurance, transport and telecommunications. The Ad Hoc Working Group would have to decide on the status to be given to these recommendations at the Symposium.

7. The Ad Hoc Working Group would also have to approve the first draft of the Columbus Ministerial Declaration. The draft would include broad principles for rapid action in the area of trade efficiency.

8. Six months after Marrakesh, the Symposium would provide trade ministers with the opportunity to address areas in which results had already been obtained in order to maximize the positive effects of the Uruguay Round. It was UNCTAD's role to ensure that this opportunity was seized by all participants in world trade.

9. The **Head of the Special Programme on Trade Efficiency** emphasized that special attention should be paid to the least developed countries (LDCs) which planned to set up trade points but were unable to attend the Ad Hoc Working Group for lack of financial resources.

10. The Ad Hoc Working Group would have to decide on the status of the recommendations to be adopted at the Columbus Symposium. One possibility was for the documents to remain as secretariat background documents.

Chapter I

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE POINTS AND THE TRADE POINT PROGRAMME

(Agenda item 3)

11. Introducing the item, the **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** stressed that two kinds of obstacles could hinder international trade: the first was of a macroeconomic nature, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers, whereas the second was microeconomic, including procedural obstacles and lack of trade services. UNCTAD's Trade Efficiency Programme aimed at reducing the second kind of obstacle (estimated to cost US$ 400 billion annually) by 25 per cent, which would generate annual savings of US$ 100 billion per year before the turn of the century. The three main objectives of trade efficiency were to lower transaction costs, to enhance participation in international trade, and to promote "best trade practices", and trade points would help make it possible to assess the field value of the measures considered to achieve these objectives. A trade point was a combination of three components, namely a trade facilitation centre, a trade information centre and a gateway to global networking. He underlined that trade facilitation was a task that trade points could contribute to in all regions of the world, independently of the technology and infrastructures available. Trade points had a vital function to play in gathering all participants in the "trade transaction chain" (importers, exporters, Customs, transporters, bankers, insurers, etc.) and assisting them in pursuing trade efficiency as a common goal. He concluded by mentioning that the trade point programme was now entering its second stage, i.e. that of global networking.

12. The **Chairperson** emphasized that although a number of technical demonstrations would be made during the session, this did not imply any endorsement by the UNCTAD secretariat. She then called upon the representatives of countries operating or planning trade points to describe their experiences.

13. The representative of **Germany** reported that the Rostock Trade Point had been inaugurated on 1 March 1994.

14. The representative of **Saudi Arabia** said that the trade point idea was being discussed in Saudi Arabia, in particular by the Chamber of Commerce, but so far no trade point had been established, possibly because of questions about the suitability of a trade point in the light of the composition of Saudi Arabian imports and exports.

15. The representative of **Argentina** said that his country's national government was considering the possibility of the newly created "Fondación Exportación" (involving both the Minister of International Relations and Trade and the Minister of the Economy, and chaired by the former) offering a link with the future trade point network as one of the services for its users.

16. The representative of **Australia** said that his Government had not yet determined its position on the trade point issue, though it was most interested. A recent review of the Australian Customs service had placed emphasis on trade facilitation and EDI.

17. The representative of **Canada** said that several organizations in Canada had expressed interest in the trade point programme and would be awaiting the outcome of the Working Group's session with interest. As yet, however, no trade point was operational in Canada.

18. The representative of **Chile** reported that the creation of the Santiago Trade Point was in its final stages.

19. The representative of **China** said that the Shanghai Trade Point was being set up with the support of the central and local government and its inauguration was expected for June 1994.

20. The representative of **Cuba** said that the Cuban Government intended to set up a trade point in Havana and, at a later date, in Varadero and Santiago de Cuba. The Government was creating a Trade Efficiency Association, in which all Government bodies and enterprises involved in foreign trade would participate.

21. The representative of the **United States of America** said that there were now 10 people working full-time at the North American Trade Point (NATP) in Columbus. The Trade Point was working with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Defense on several projects. The Trade Point's electronic catalogue was now live on the Internet network. The challenges the NATP faced were mainly organizational and financial. The NATP would also be responsible for logistics at the Symposium and was to ensure communications between Columbus and the other trade points.

22. The representative of the **Russian Federation** said that his Government intended to create a whole network of trade points. The country was currently in transition, and there were large numbers of new participants in foreign trade who were unfamiliar with trade practices. Of primary importance was the National Council for EDIFACT, whose main task was to disseminate information on EDIFACT, E-mail, and electronic data processing. Training courses on these technologies were to be carried out.

23. The representative of **Finland** informed the Working Group that trade points were being established in Helsinki, Estonia, and Ukraine, in line with UNCTAD's request to support the creation of trade points in less developed countries and countries in transition. In February, the three countries concerned had attended a six-week training session in Helsinki, where the topics had included the basics of ECE trade facilitation recommendations.

24. Trade points should disseminate information on trade procedures and provide technical solutions that did not require highly technical skills on the part of trade points or end users. Although ultimately trade points should be self-supporting, in the initial stages they needed donor or governmental support.

25. Finally, he gave a brief description of the technical solution developed by the Helsinki Trade Point based on Trader/2 software.

26. The representative of **Hungary** reported that the trade point in Budapest was now being set up and that, in parallel, tests were proceeding with EDI and electronic mail. He expressed concern that not all participants in international trade were interested in the trade point concept.

27. The representative of **Indonesia** said that a scheme similar to a trade point had been in operation since 1989, providing information services to over 500 small and medium-sized enterprises. Indonesia was now ready to set up remote industrial information stations around the country, which would constitute a subset of trade points at the national level. It was hoped to start with three nodes and subsequently to enhance the range of services provided.

28. The representative of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** explained that his Government had approached the UNCTAD secretariat formally on the question of the establishment of a trade point, and a preparatory mission had already taken place. His country was interested in the experiences of trade points already in operation and hoped to have its own trade point in the near future.

29. The representative of **Italy** said that his Government was still considering the possibility of setting up an Italian trade point.

30. The representative of **Morocco** said that the trade point programme was an important element of the Moroccan Government's international trade strategy. In order to gain experience prior to the Symposium, the trade point would be installed in temporary premises.

31. The representative of **Mauritania** said that his country regarded trade points as versatile tools that would allow it to be more aggressive in the field of international trade. Two trade points were to be created, in Nouakchott and in Nouadhibou, and the steering committee for the future Nouakchott Trade Point had been established in 1993. The main difficulties encountered related to trade point financing during the early stages of its establishment.

32. The representative of **France** reported that Marseilles had already taken an official decision to set up a trade point. Other cities, including Grenoble, had also expressed interest, but no decision had yet been made.

33. The representative of the **Philippines** informed the Working Group that the Philippines Trade Efficiency Association (PTEA) had been established in March 1994 and that the Trade Point Manila Inc. was now operating inside the Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The PTEA would oversee the operation of trade points in the Philippines, set guidelines and represent trade point users and participants. In that connection, he mentioned the need for a clear model defining the relationship between trade points and national trade efficiency associations. The trade point was using electronic mail to disseminate information, but difficulties were being experienced in the field of telecommunications technologies.

34. The representative of the **Republic of Korea** said that his country already had several institutions that were similar but not identical to trade points and was studying how to incorporate trade points in this environment.

35. The representative of the **United Republic of Tanzania** expressed his Government's keen interest in establishing trade points, and an UNCTAD mission had recently visited the country. The main problem was the novelty of the trade point concept. Furthermore, LDCs lacked an appropriate infrastructure in many sectors, including finance and insurance. He therefore urged UNCTAD to consider assisting his country with equipment and training.

36. The representative of **Romania** expressed his Government's support for the trade point programme. It was expected that a first trade point would be operational in Bucharest within three months.

37. The representative of the **United Kingdom** reported that his country was looking at how trade points fitted into information schemes currently in place. He remarked that the development of proprietary standards could lead to closed systems, and he recommended open systems where none would be excluded. He mentioned the need to develop EDI for international trade and stressed the importance of following international standards. He also expressed the strong desire to start sending and receiving ETOs as soon as possible.

38. The representative of **Senegal** informed the meeting that the Dakar Trade Point would be inaugurated in June 1994. The trade point was particularly important as Senegal was part of the West African sub-region where efforts towards economic integration were now under way.

39. The representative of **Switzerland** announced that a trade point would be in operation at the World Trade Centre in Lausanne in two months' time.

40. The representative of **Tunisia** underlined the importance that the Tunisian Government attached to the trade point programme. The main activity of the Tunisian trade point was the collection and dissemination of information on trade opportunities among importers and/or exporters using a variety of means, ranging from electronic mail to printed newsletters. The main problem that had arisen related to trade point financing.

41. The representative of **Venezuela** said that contacts had been initiated with the trade point in Cartagena, Colombia. However, economic reforms were still being undertaken as a first step in creating the appropriate climate for the establishment of trade points.

42. The representative of **Japan** said that his country was looking at the possibility of integrating existing institutions into the trade point network.

43. The representative of **Angola** reported that a request for the setting up of a trade point had been made recently. He stressed the financial difficulties that his country was going through and asked for financial assistance for equipment and training.

44. The representative of **Ethiopia** requested technical assistance to establish a trade point.

45. The representative of **Gabon** announced that, following an UNCTAD mission in March 1994, the Libreville Trade Point would be inaugurated in September 1994. Following the devaluation of the CFA franc, the Trade Point could help provide answers to the challenges that had to be faced. Finally, the cost of telecommunications in Gabon made it imperative for alternatives to be found in the field of electronic data transmission.

46. The representative of **Peru** reported that there was strong support in Lima for the creation of a trade point, particularly from the Chamber of Commerce. A feasibility study for creating a trade point would be completed soon, and the Lima Trade Point should be in operation before the Symposium.

47. The representative of **Thailand** reported that the Thai trade point project would be moving into its second phase with the inauguration of a second trade point in June 1994. That trade point would be product-specific, based on the Thai jewellery market.

48. A member of the **Swiss delegation**, conveying a message from the World Trade Centers Association, said that, at its regular spring meeting in April 1994, the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) had concluded that there was a strong commonality of purpose between World Trade Centers and trade points and that World Trade Centers would be ideal locations for trade points. WTCA therefore intended to launch a programme of cooperation with national Governments that would lead to the establishment of trade points within World Trade Centers. National Coordinators would be appointed to coordinate communications with appropriate government agencies. WTCA would work with the organizers of trade points to exchange information and services for the increased benefit of world businesses.

49. The **Head of the Special Programme on Trade Efficiency** said that discussions with WTCA had been going on for two years and that he was extremely pleased to learn that the spring meeting had given its blessing to these efforts. This was one of the most favourable events for the Trade Efficiency Programme in recent months.

50. The representative of the **United States of America** referred to the different EDI standards (X12 and EDIFACT) in use and said that the United States should align itself with the rest of the world. National standards should be developed in the context of international standards.

51. The representative of **Algeria** informed the Working Group that the Algiers Trade Point, inaugurated in December 1993, included all the services involved in international trade. The Trade Point was particularly useful for small and medium-sized enterprises, as it provided information and assistance on all aspects of international trade. Unfortunately the Trade Point was not yet connected to the trade point network. The creation of a "second generation" trade point catering for a larger number of participants was foreseen for the near future. The cities of Oran and Skikda had also expressed interest in trade points. She requested technical cooperation from UNCTAD in connection with the trade point programme.

52. The representative of **Brazil** reported that trade points had been opened in Campinas and Porto Alegre; both were in the initial phase of work and were legally constituted as Trade Point Associations. The Porto Alegre Trade Point, inaugurated in December 1993, now employed five full-time staff. The cities of Rio de Janeiro and Florianópolis already had the infrastructure for the installation of their trade points. The fifth trade point in Brazil was to be created in Brasilia, and the studies for its implementation were being carried out. The installation and inauguration of the trade points in Rio de Janeiro, Florianópolis and Brasilia were expected to take place during the visit of an UNCTAD mission to Brazil, scheduled for June 1994.

53. The representative of **India** said that her country had made significant advances in liberalizing telecommunications and pricing policies. Significant progress had also been made in the fields of finance, Customs, insurance, business information and transport. The first of the Indian trade points was to be set up in New Delhi. The creation of the Indian Trade Efficiency Association was well under way, and the relevant by-laws were currently being drafted.

54. The representative of **Egypt** said, that given his country's severe balance-of-payments difficulties, the Government intended to include trade points in its export promotion strategy. The Cairo Trade Point had been operative since January 1994, and the services provided were still free of charge. Three more trade points were foreseen for the near future. The main difficulties encountered had been the lack of international databases and harmonization of the structure of databases, and ways were currently being sought of connecting the Egyptian trade point with other trade points through a low-cost network.

55. He suggested that UNCTAD should continue to provide backstopping on trade point development and that industrialized countries should find ways to help finance the creation of trade points in developing countries. Finally, his country expected that, after the Symposium, means would be found to make trade points in developing countries viable and to integrate them effectively in a network that would allow them to fulfil their role according to the Cartagena Commitment.

56. The representative of **Ukraine** reported that a trade point was being set up in Kiev with the help of the Finnish Trade Point. As an economy in transition where there had been great changes in legislation, including the foreign trade regime, Ukraine was eager to join the trade point programme in order to overcome some of its foreign trade difficulties. The Kiev Trade Point currently employed three staff members, two of whom had been trained in Finland.

57. The representative of **Zimbabwe** said that his country was interested in the trade point programme. A request for assistance in establishing a trade point had been submitted to UNCTAD in February 1994, and UNCTAD was expected to send a mission to Zimbabwe in June 1994. A trade information centre was already in operation under the purview of the export promotion organization, Zimtrade.

Chapter II

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE EFFICIENCY

(Agenda item 4)

58. At the 1st plenary meeting of its third session, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to pursue its consideratio.. of agenda item 4 in informal meetings.

A. Establishment of a preparatory committee for the Symposium

59. At its 7th (closing) plenary meeting, on 11 May 1994, the Ad Hoc Working Group recommended to the Trade and Development Board, at its resumed fortieth session, second part, that the Board establish a preparatory committee for the Symposium, that the preparatory committee meet from 27 June to 1 July 1994, with full interpretation services throughout that period, and that facilities be reserved for a possible second session of the preparatory committee for one week in early September, on the understanding that every possible effort would be made to complete the work of the preparatory committee by 1 July. It further recommended that the bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group should serve as the bureau of the preparatory committee.

60. The **Chairperson** said that the task of the preparatory committee would consist in finalizing the ministerial declaration and the recommendations to Governments, as well as extracting from the secretariat's background documentation (TD/B/WG.2/11 and Add.1-5) technical recommendations and recommendations on trade points. The UNCTAD secretariat would prepare a document containing those recommendations in the background documentation which had not been discussed by the Ad Hoc Working Group; it would present these remaining recommendations in a uniform format but without making any substantive changes. Finally, with regard to the composition of delegations to the preparatory committee, it would be important for representatives to be in a position to take decisions on the texts considered if a second session of the preparatory committee was to be avoided.

61. The representative of **Egypt** said he hoped that the recommendations made by trade point directors at the Working Group's second session would also be before the preparatory committee.

62. The representative of **Finland** said that, if the recommendations of trade point directors were to be discussed by the preparatory committee, experts would have to be present.

63. The representative of **Switzerland** said that, so far, the Ad Hoc Working Group had considered recommendations for Governments, so it would now be necessary to produce recommendations for the private sector. However, those recommendations should cover more than just technical issues. With regard to trade points, the recommendations of the trade point directors had not been endorsed by the Working Group, and it would be important to determine the source of the recommendations on trade points that would be considered by the preparatory committee.

64. The **Chairperson** said that the recommendations on trade points would be drawn from the secretariat's background documentation (TD/B/WG.2/11 and Add.1-5).

65. The representative of **France** said that the document to be prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat for the preparatory committee should be issued in all official languages and should be made available before the session of the preparatory committee.

66. The representative of **India** said that, with regard to the organization of work of the preparatory committee, it would be important to indicate in advance what documents would be discussed on what dates.

67. The representative of **Brazil** suggested that, since both political and technical issues were to be discussed by the preparatory committee, the possibility of having two sets of parallel meetings should be explored.

B. Draft ministerial declaration

68. At the Ad Hoc Working Group's 7th (closing) plenary meeting, on 11 May 1994, the **Chairperson** presented a draft Columbus ministerial declaration on trade efficiency which had been discussed in informal meetings.

69. The Ad Hoc Working Group decided that the draft declaration should be finalized in the preparatory committee on the basis of comments received from capitals, with a view to its adoption at the Symposium. (For the text of the draft declaration, see the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (TD/B/40(2)/28-TD/B/WG.2/14).

C. Closing statements

70. The representative of **India** said that the draft sectoral documents were still under review by different government departments in his country. His delegation was however proceeding on the understanding that these sectoral documents were UNCTAD's guideline documents for the guidance of participating countries in improving trade efficiency to the extent they considered appropriate. Similarly, the draft ministerial declaration and the guidelines and recommendations to be attached to it were regarded by his delegation as suggestions which would provide Governments with useful assistance in implementing trade efficiency programmes.

71. With regard to the Symposium itself, support for developing countries was crucial for effective participation, and the availability of such support would have to be known sufficiently in advance to allow appropriate planning. His country requested an opportunity at the Symposium to present the state-of-the-art digital technology it had developed for rural automatic exchange.

72. The **Chairperson** said that the Ad Hoc Working Group had accomplished a great deal, and it had done so in a spirit of cooperation and continuous improvement. Economic success at the national or global level generated new conditions, which often required different approaches, institutions or operating procedures if success was to continue. The technological and

procedural changes which had occurred recently had led to global sourcing and the development not only of a world capital market but also a worldwide market in goods and services. Both of those made it easier for developing countries to export and for all countries to expand their trade with each other.

73. Telecommunications had become a driving force which both led to the creation of a single global economy and made the smaller parts of that economy more powerful. This, and other factors such as PCs and globalization, were transforming people's lives at a phenomenal pace. The Ad Hoc Working Group was at the forefront of efforts to deal with such issues, and had had that rarest of opportunities to achieve something of real significance to the world.

Chapter III

CONSIDERATION OF GUIDELINES ON KEY SECTORS FOR TRADE EFFICIENCY: CUSTOMS, TRANSPORT, BANKING AND INSURANCE, INFORMATION FOR TRADE, BUSINESS PRACTICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda item 5)

74. For its consideration of this agenda item, the Ad Hoc Working Group had before it the following documentation:

"Facilitating trade: Draft guidelines on better trade practices - report prepared by a consultant" (TD/B/WG.2/6/Add.1/Part I and Corr.1 and Part II and Corr. 1);

"Consideration of guidelines on key sectors for trade efficiency: Customs; transport; banking and insurance; business information for trade; telecommunications" (TD/B/WG.2/11 and Add.1-5).

75. At the 1st plenary meeting of its third session, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to pursue its consideration of agenda item 5 in informal meetings.

76. At its 7th (closing) plenary meeting, on 11 May 1994, the Ad Hoc Working Group approved the draft recommendations for Governments contained in document TD/B/WG.2/L.6, subject to further discussion in the preparatory committee, with a view to their adoption at the Symposium. (For the text of the draft recommendations, see the final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (TD/B/40(2)/28-TD/B/WG.2/14)

77. The representative of **Egypt** indicated that his delegation had reservations concerning certain of the draft recommendations relating to Customs and telecommunications.

Chapter IV

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

78. The third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group was opened on 2 May 1994 by the Chairperson of the Group.

B. Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group

79. The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group was as at the Group's second session, as follows:

Chairperson:	Mrs. E. Shelton	(United States of America)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. A.-R. Al Sohaibani	(Saudi Arabia)
	Mr. E. Dreyfous	(France)
	Mr. M. Mangachi	(United Republic of Tanzania)
	Mr. J. Perez Gabilondo	(Argentina)
	Mr. Y. Afanassiev	(Russian Federation)
Rapporteur:	Mr. A. Brahime	(Morocco)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 1)

80. The representative of Finland, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of ECE Working Party IV, having emphasized the strong desire of ECE to pursue its cooperation with the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, said that item 2 of the Working Group's provisional agenda dealt with matters on which ECE Working Party IV had been working for many years and which UNCITRAL had also taken up. In view of the short time available to the Ad Hoc Working Group, it might not be realistic to expect the Group to make much progress on the complex issues involved. In that connection, ECE had prepared a questionnaire on related legal and procedural questions, the responses to which would provide an important input for future work. He requested that the questionnaire be distributed to members of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

81. The Chairperson said that the original intention had been for item 2 to be dealt with at a workshop, but this had not proved possible. In discussing item 2, the Ad Hoc Working Group would naturally draw on the work of other bodies. The questionnaire referred to by the Chairman of ECE Working Party IV could be distributed to members of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

82. At the opening plenary of its third session, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WG.2/10), as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Governments' role in trade efficiency 1/

3. Progress on implementation of trade points and the trade point programme

4. Preparations for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

5. Consideration of guidelines on key sectors for trade efficiency: customs, transport, banking and insurance, information for trade, business practices and telecommunications

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board.

83. At its plenary meeting on 6 May 1994, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided, in line with the possibility accorded to it in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, to extend its session until 11 May 1994.

D. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board

(Agenda item 7)

84. At the 7th (closing) plenary meeting of its third session, on 11 May 1994, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the draft report on its third session (TD/B/WG.2/L.5), subject to amendments to be received from delegations to the summaries of their statements, and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the text of the report as necessary to reflect the proceedings of the closing plenary.

85. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Working Group also adopted its final report (for the text of the final report, see document TD/B/40(2)/28-TD/B/WG.2/14).

1/ This item will consist of the work envisaged for Workshop 2 as agreed in the work programme of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Annex

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE */

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Ad Hoc Working Group, were represented at the session:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudia Arabia
Senegal
Slovakia
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

*/ For the list of participants, see TD/B/WG.2/INF.3.

2. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Ad Hoc Working Group, were represented as observers at the session:

Albania
Bulgaria
Cape Verde
Costa Rica
Ecuador
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Gabon
Iraq
Jamaica
Nepal
Paraguay
Qatar
Slovenia
Spain
Sudan
Thailand
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
Viet Nam

3. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia was represented at the session.

The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was also represented at the session.

4. The following specialized and related agencies were represented at the session:

International Monetary Fund.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented at the session.

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Customs Co-operation Council
European Community
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
League of Arab States
Organization of African Unity

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category

International Chamber of Commerce
World Federation of United Nations Associations

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